



BUNCOM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER



AUGUST 1997

MOTHER NATURE CONTRIBUTES TO BUNCOM DAY'S SUCCESS

While rain fell in Medford and Grants Pass, Mother Nature smiled on the 4th annual Buncom Day May 24. Not a drop came down as some 500 neighbors and visitors enjoyed a low-key day of music, crafts, food and unusual bargains. It was a day that those there said was the perfect way to celebrate Buncom each year.

Chair Donna Epstein put together an outstanding mix of events that included something to do for everyone, or simply a pleasant backdrop for conversation and

visiting. Country Store Chair Rose Marie Leever had a fascinating collection of items for sale which kept bargain-hunters busy throughout the day.

Good Comp'ny once again led the entertainers who provided live music, and the Applegate River Ranch House returned for the third year with Richard and Joanna Davis's mouth-watering red oak barbecue.

There were a lot of familiar faces and activities: gold panning by Larry Goins, horse-shoeing demonstration by J.B. Roberts, a petting zoo, food and drink ably organized by Vernice Hall, and several popular craft vendors. The Applegate Valley Fire District was there, and a group of delightful antique cars which led special ambience to the occasion.

And then, of course, there was The World-Famous Buncom Chicken-Splat Contest, organized and conducted by Denni Bateman.

In contrast with last year's Centennial celebration, which drew some 2,500 people to Buncom Day, parking was easy to find, and the wait in the food line was short. It was decided in advance that while the Centennial was a wonderful one-time happening for a special occasion, its size overwhelmed the limited Buncom grounds. So this year at our annual meeting, it was agreed that publicity would be strictly limited, and it was – to the point, in fact, the organizers wondered if enough people would show up! Not to worry, though, attendance reached 500 – right on target.

The one activity this year that a number of people said they missed from the Centennial was the parade. We'll consider bringing it back at Buncom Day 1998.

SATISFY YOUR SECRET DESIRE FOR COOKING FAME!

Get out your chef's aprons and chef's hats. The Southern Oregon Historical Society has invited our Society to enter a team in their 8th Annual Chili Cook-off Contest on Oct. 4 -- from setup at 11 a.m. to awards presentation at 2 p.m. — during the 1997 Jackson County Harvest Fair and Wine Fest.

We're looking for volunteers to make up our team. And the SOHS is making it easy — they say they will share their cook-off secrets with us. It's an opportunity for a day of good fun and to heighten the public's awareness of our Society. Some 3,000 people attended last year. And who knows — you may come away with the first prize of \$250!

The deadline for entering is Sept. 9. If you're interested in participating, or would just like more information, give Reeve or Lyn Hennion a call at 899-7656.

NEW BUNKHOUSE ROOF IS BEGINNING TO WEATHER

Thanks Grizzly Bear!

In conjunction with our work party to get Buncom ready for Buncom Day, a new shingled roof went up on the Bunkhouse. We want to offer our special, sincere thanks to Brian and Joel Stephenson and their crew from Grizzly Bear Construction who brought their professional expertise to the task. They also saved a lot of wear and tear – not to mention time – that would have been borne by an amateur crew from the Society.

With replacement of the roof, only replacement of the doors and windows remain until the Bunkhouse repairs will be completed. Structural improvements were completed earlier.

In looking for old doors and windows at Morrow's, local treasure house of such artifacts, Ron Marchetti and Reeve Hennion came upon a surprising fact: Windows of a size commonly used decades ago, and needed for several Bunkhouse windows, are prized by crafters for displaying their wares. Joel Morrow told us he can't keep them in stock!

And while we're at it:

Thanks, Barbara!

All spring and summer long, Barbara Mumblo has been attacking the yellow star thistle growing on the Buncom grounds. Barbara, a local resident and botanist for the U.S. Forest Service, stops by often on the way home after work to pull the weeds by hand. If you see her there, show our thanks by waving as you go by.

(For those readers who may not be familiar with star thistle, it is a pest weed that has taken over hundreds or even thousands of acres in Southern Oregon. It is very difficult to eradicate. Barbara is one of the leading authorities on its treatment locally.)

BUNCOM IS FEATURED IN NEW HISTORICAL BROCHURE

A new historical brochure for visitors and residents is on display throughout Jackson County. It's called "Historic Discovery Drives: Your Guide to Jackson County's Past," and Buncom is featured in it.

The brochure was prepared by the Southern Oregon Historical Society, in conjunction with our Society and the other 10 local historical societies in the county. It lists 24 major historical sites, with descriptions of each and directions on how to get to them.

Besides Buncom, other Applegate area sites are Valley View Vineyards, the Gin Lin Trail, Applegate School, the Applegate Historical Society museum and the Missouri Flat Cemetery. Other brochures, with more historic sites, may follow.

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The Buncom Historical Society is a non-profit corporation dedicated to preserving the buildings and history of the ghost town of Buncom, Oregon. Society address: 3232 Little Applegate Road, Jacksonville, OR 97530.

On the Internet: <http://www.mind.net/buncom/>

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

We'd like to take a moment to ask what you think of our Society. What do you like, not like? What do you wish we would do or not do? Are there activities you would like to see us undertake, or do you wish we would do less? What about Buncom Day -- do you like the way it is, or would you like to see changes? We want to keep Buncom Day fresh with new activities, do you have suggestions? Any thoughts about preservation of the buildings and grounds?

Please take a minute to jot your thoughts on this page and send it to:

Buncom Historical Society
3232 Little Applegate Road
Jacksonville, OR 97530

Thanks!

Dear Buncom Historical Society:

(Optional)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

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